

# Rural Safe Home Network

## Goals:

- Establish The Rural Safe Home Network - Domestic Violence Services Program strives to:
- Provide temporary, emergency safe shelter and related assistance to victims of domestic violence
- Establish and continue collaborative efforts in rural communities that result in improvements to specific women's and children's health outcomes regarding family and domestic violence
- Work with and maintain existing Rural Safe Home Network - Domestic Violence Services Programs (RSHN) in rural communities to ensure continued funding
- Establish Rural Safe Home Network - Domestic Violence Services programs for persons experiencing domestic violence in rural communities with clearly identified needs
- Use a set of standards and guidelines as developed by the Rural Safe Home Network - Domestic Violence Services Programs and Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence for rural safe home/shelters that will ensure the use of best practices in service delivery for domestic violence victims.

## Program Components:

The Rural Safe Home Network Program provides services to person experiencing domestic violence. Services include, but may not be limited to: emergency, temporary, safe shelter; crisis intervention; case management; 1:1 counseling; support groups; children's services; transportation; advocacy; legal advocacy.

Programs within the Rural Safe Home Network Program establish Rural Safe Home Networks in their communities. These local networks are comprised of social service providers, medical providers, businesses, law enforcement entities, court and legal representatives, private individuals and others who may be interested in addressing the issue of domestic violence.

## Funding

Arizona was awarded \$1,730,522 in federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) monies for FY 2007.

## Target Audience:

People experiencing domestic violence and seeking safe, temporary, emergency shelter. Rural communities in Arizona are specifically targeted with these funds.

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## Why is this Program Needed?

- Nearly one-third of American women report physically assaulted by a current or former partner at some point in their lives
- 85-95% of all domestic violence victims are female
- In almost nine out of ten incidents of domestic elder abuse and neglect, the perpetrator is a family member
- Each year, thousands of American children witness intimate partner violence within their families. Witnessing violence is a risk factor for long-term physical and mental health problems, including alcohol and substance abuse, being a victim of abuse, and perpetrating intimate partner violence
- Women are more likely to be attacked by someone they know rather than by a stranger
- Depending on the source of research, women are being beaten every 9 to 15 seconds in this country.
- One third of all teenagers report having experienced violence in a dating relationship.

There were an estimated 26,691 mothers in Arizona who were younger than 20 years old, 13,654 girls under the age of 20 got pregnant, and 28% of those girls had been pregnant before. The "2005 Arizona Youth Risk Behavior Survey" (YRBS) is a self-report survey of students in grades 9 through 12. This survey assesses behaviors among youth that contribute to the leading cause of morbidity and mortality during adolescence. The YRBS indicates that 42% of the youth surveyed have had sexual intercourse and that adolescents age 15 to 19 comprise 22.5% of Arizona's gonorrhea epidemic, 31.9% of the Chlamydia epidemic, and 12.1% of Arizona's genital herpes epidemic.

## What has the Program Achieved?

Currently ADHS/BWCH funds seven domestic violence programs throughout the rural areas of Arizona, (Rural Safe Home Network Programs) including the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Never Again Foundation. Between October 1, 2005 and September 30, 2006, Rural Safe Home Network agencies provided shelter services to 342 women and 448 children. Victims were provided 11,642 bed nights for an average length of stay of 33.55 nights. 20 women were turned away because shelter was unavailable and 123 were referred to other providers due to lack of space.

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## For Additional Information Contact:

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For Training and technical assistance, and shelter information in your local area:  
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